proposal but it has not yet been opened;

(c) whether Government propose to take immediate action for opening it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Superintendent of Post Offices had submitted a proposal for opening of a post office at villa Chatriyara. However, on examination in the Office of the Regional Director it was found that the proposal did not satisfy the prescribed norms and has therefore been dropped.

(c) In view of reply to (a) and (b) above the question does not arise.

C. DOT Technology in Telecommunication works

147. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to use C. DOT technology in the expansion of telecommunication works ;

(b) whether Government are also signing agreements with French and American concerns for import of similar technology ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The indigenous technology for Electronic equipment is under development by C. DOT.

(b) There is at present no proposal with the Government to sign agreements with French or American concerns in regard to any new technologies. However, an agreement was signed with the French firm in July, 1982 in respect of digital switching technology before C. DOT was formed. As regards technologies for electronic PABX and electronic rural exchanges, the matter is still under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety measures in Hazardous Plants in States

148. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has asked the Chief Ministers to take most stringent measures to curb the menace of continuing leakages from chemical plants in their States and ensure that the task of providing safety in the hazardous plants is accorded topmost priority;

(b) what are the latest reports received by the Centre about the leakage position and the safety measures; and

(c) what measures have been taken in respect of plants based on hazardous processors or utilising hazardous chemicals that might have closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several State Governments have set up Task Force/Committees for updating information on occupational and health hazardsi and implementation of safety provisions in chemical and other industries using hazardous operation and processes including highly toxic substances.

(c) The State Governments have asked to ensure that all the hazardous chemicals either in bulk storage or in processes, are promptly disposed off by the management. It has also been suggested that progress of the disposal should be closely monitored by the inspection authorities.

Connection of District Head-Quarters of Mizoram Telegraphically with Aizwal

149. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Headquarters of Mizoram are not connected telegraphically with other States and with Aizwal, the Capital of Mizoram;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to connect at least the District Headquarters telegraphically ;

(c) what is the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) by when they are likely to be connected

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Of the three District Headquarters, Aizwal and Lungleh are connected to other States *viz*, Aizwal with Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Delhi, and Lungleh with Assam and Meghalaya. Lungleh and Saiha are not connected to Aizwal.

(b) UHF projects are under way and, on completion, all the District Headquarters will be interconnected with each other and also linked to Aizwal.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 24,04,300.

(d) By 1986.

Telephone Exchanges in Mizoram

150. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number and capacity of telephone exchanges in Mizoram (Exchange and District wise) as on 31st October, 1985;

(b) the number of telephone connections released through different exchanges, exchange-wise;

(c) the number of persons who are on the waiting list, exchange and district-wise ;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to expand the telephone network and convert the existing exchanges into electronic exchanges ;

(e) whether the three districts of Mizoram namely Aizwal, Lungleh and Saiha have been connected by telephones; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this regard and by when they are likely to be connected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The required information is given in statement.

(d) Existing Aizwal and Linglei Exchanges are proposed to be replaced by Electronic Exchanges and Saiha by Automatic Exchange in 7th. five year plan.

(e) & (f) Telephone facility is available in the three districts. Also Aizwal is connected by Trunk dialling facility to Shillong & New Delhi. UHF Links interconnecting these districts are likely to be commissioned in 1986-87 facilitating direct communication amongst them.